

New Bedford, Jan. 1st 1837.

My dear Anne

I wish you a happy new year.

Abby Csgood.

It is so long my dear Anne since I have written to you that I have almost forgotten where I left off. I believe though that I wrote last by Ann Maria Bailey. Did you get my letter by Mr Clark? I wish you would acknowledge the receipt of my letters, for there is so much of all sorts and kinds in them, that I should be sorry to have any of them missing. Thursday 21. the day of the fair Mr Holmes new church was dedicated, so of course we had no school. Dr Holmes preached the dedication sermon. & a very good one it was. He said nothing about abolition in his sermon. but Mr Bent who dined with the ministers, says that he avowed himself an abolitionist, disapproved of some of the abolition measures, but still has left on the minds of the people here the impression that he is a strong abolitionist. Full as strong I dare say as most here I dare say. We were in great danger at the church. There had been reports about town a week before hand that the house was built in such a hurry that there was great fear of the floors giving out. While

they were reading the bible, and during the first prayer
we heard a great founding in the vestry beneath,
afterwards Mr Emerson said, that they were putting
up props, for the iron pillars which supported the
floor bent considerable out of the perpendicular.
In ten minutes more if it had been left to
itself we should all have been down together.
When the people rose in prayer time, the workmen
beneath ran out thinking that every thing
was coming down. In the afternoon I went
petitioning, & was almost blown away. I worst
of all I lost my little pearl pin. I felt very ^{bad} about
it till people began to ask me if I was not
sorry that I went petitioning. I assured them that
this was a cause in which every thing must be
sacrificed & the pin must go ^{with} ~~among~~ the rest.
I went to William Rodman's & saw Anna who refused
in the sweetest manner possible & said that her mother
was out, but that she heard her say a day or two
before that she thought she should not sign
most of the people to whom I went that afternoon
were out, so Saturday I tried it again. Mrs Grinnell
at the stone house signed. as did Mrs Roberts. The
Savins. Mrs John Forbes folks refused in the shortest
way of any that I have seen. Mrs Sam Rodman had
a little mother not put her name to the paper, but
hoped that I would not think that it was from
any want of interest in the cause. Made many inquiries
and talked of Ben Lundy. Mrs Charles Morgan, who
has just been confined, sent down word that she
had signed it. Mrs Jo Proth & Mrs Angier who were
both engaged refused. Dr Whittredge's folks refused.

& most wonderful of all; two Miss Holmes
signed. Mrs Holmes was out. Nothing could be
so civil as the Miss Holmes were to me. Dr Holmes
I suspect had mollified them some & I also
suspect, to use Henry phrase that they have
very bushy tails. I went - you see from Mr Roberts
to Mr Holmes. You must not expect to find this
letter very intelligible for I have a very bad head-
ache, and one of Mr Bents parishioners is sitting
by talking in such a mean way that I can
hardly bear to sit and hear him. Friday night
I took tea at Aunt Sally's, who had a pumpkin
pie & a hot apple pie made of free sugar on
purpose for me. I gave her the pen paper that
Anna Chapman sent, & she in return I suppose
has given me a white handkerchief to wear on
the neck. ~~with~~ They are really quite fond of me &
Aunt Sally admires me for being no frander of
going to the great houses petitioning. I got
your letter Sunday morning & glad enough was I to
hear. What is poor Hildreth about? I wish you
would send me his books the first chance.
Mr Bent will give you this & I don't know whether
he will ask you to come down with ^{him} or not.
~~I don't know whether~~ I have talked considerable
about your coming & I don't know but he wants
to surprise me. I would give almost any thing to
see you, but don't come if it is the right
independent. Much as I hunger & thirst to see
you, I should rather have you stay away, though
I have thought so much of it I can hardly
bear to give it up. Tell Lucia I shall write to her

if I can by this opportunity, but if I do not she
must attribute it to my headache and hurry. Thos
Capt Northam is talking so I can hardly tell what
I write. Monday night I had just finished writing the
enclosed note to Mrs Chapman & was preparing to do up my
letters in a great hurry, when Mr Bent came in to say that
he had put off going till tomorrow. If you don't come
down with him this time he sure to write by him at great
length. You did finely when you wrote last. Don't insinuate
the least word to Mr Bent that I wrote any thing about your
coming or expected you in the least, you know he is fond
of surprises. I wish you would ^{Jan 1st 1837} write to me by mail before
Mr Bent comes back, for he will stay sometime I know. Tell
me when aunt Mary goes to Duxbury for I want to write to
her there. I forgot to tell you when I was giving you an
account of my success in petitioning that Louis & Sanyer
signed & Mrs Bent was going to, only her husband did
not approve, though he did not object to her signing. She
acknowledged that her only motive was to please me.
Abby Osgood signed & then scratched her name out. You
see what a backslider she is. She and I get along very
well together though, & I get along pretty well with my
Italian with her assistance. You need do nothing about
an Italian dictionary, for I have two. Abby sent home
for her's & Henry Lee got me one from the Academy library.
My headache is entirely gone to-day, but I had it dreadfully
yesterday. In order to see what I could do to-day I
fell down twice, & didn't hurt myself in the least. With
love to all I am yours most affectionately D.W.